

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-17 are amended to clarify what is claimed as the invention. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Zhang*. Applicants respectfully disagree. *Zhang* does not teach all of the limitations taught in Applicants' Claims 1-17.

The Office Action rejected independent Claim 1 by citing a procedure described in *Zhang* for synchronizing cached information. Claim 1, as amended, teaches a "method for processing a notification having a tagged value, comprising: receiving the notification; determining a synchronization state; and processing the notification based on the tagged value and the synchronization state."

Zhang teaches synchronizing content requested from a cache manager. The current state of operation of the cache manager may be varied with respect to whether and how the cached content is retrieved and/or synchronized. The variation of cache manager operation can depend on certain state such as the age of the content. However, the synchronization of cached information of *Zhang* is implemented differently than the method for processing a notification taught by Applicants' invention as claimed in Claim 1. Specifically, *Zhang* does not teach "processing the notification based on the **tagged value** and the synchronization state." (emphasis added) Since Applicants' Claim 1 includes limitations not found in *Zhang*, Applicant's claimed invention is not anticipated by *Zhang*.

Claims 7 and 13, as amended, contain essentially the same limitations as Claim 1. The Office Action rejected Claims 7 and 13 for the same reasons that Claim 1 was rejected. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable. Thus, Claims 7 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.

The Office Action also rejected dependent Claim 3 by citing a procedure described in *Zhang* for determining whether content in the cache manager has changed. Claim 3, as amended, teaches “processing the notification when the tagged value is current with respect to a current synchronization checkpoint value; discarding the notification when the tagged value is stale with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint value; and handling the notification when the tagged value is out-of-date with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint value.”

Zhang teaches a procedure for determining whether content in the cache manager has changed. A server determines whether the content of a conditional request received by a server has changed. If the content has not changed, the server responds with a “not modified” response, otherwise the server provides the modified content.

The determination of whether content has changed according to *Zhang* is implemented differently than the method for processing a notification taught by Applicants’ invention as claimed in Claim 3. Specifically, *Zhang* does not teach: processing a notification when the tagged value is current with respect to a current synchronization checkpoint value; discarding the notification when the tagged value is stale with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint value; and handling the notification when the tagged value is out-of-date with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint value. Since Applicants’ Claim 3 includes limitations not found in *Zhang*, Applicant’s claimed invention is not anticipated by *Zhang*.

Claims 9 and 15, as amended, contain essentially the same limitations as Claim 3. The Office Action rejected Claims 9 and 15 for the same reasons that Claim 3 was rejected. As discussed above, Claim 3 is allowable. Thus, Claims 9 and 15 are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 3 is allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.

As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable. Thus, dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons that the base claims on which they rely are allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.

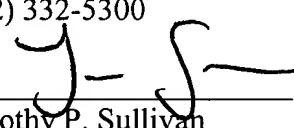
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 10-28-03



Timothy P. Sullivan
Reg. No. 47,981

Customer No. 27488